

**ROTHMANS** Isthmian League champions Wycombe Wanderers have arranged three friendlies at Loakes Park before the league campaign gets underway on Saturday, August 17. The first and most attractive of these "warm ups" is another match against Football League, Division Two side Oxford United on Monday, August 5. The teams met for a similar game last year, with Oxford running out winners 2-0.

On Wednesday, August 7, the Blues take on Wimbledon from the Southern League, Premier Division. This match is bound to create interest as it will give supporters the chance to see the standard of opposition Wycombe can expect in their first season in the F.A. Challenge Trophy.

Southern League Division One club Witney Town provide the opposition for the final friendly on Saturday, August 10. Witney, who were the leading club in the Hellenic League two seasons ago, have improved considerably after their first season in the Southern. Wanderers are hoping to arrange one more friendly before August 17.

They kick off their defence of the league title with two home matches, against Kingstonian on Saturday and the following Tuesday they meet up with old rivals Slough Town, whom they beat 3-1 in the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup last term. The return with the Rebels is on September 24. The other newcomers of Division One, Dagenham, entertain Wycombe on September 7, while the return is January 11.

Meanwhile the Blues start training at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday.

#### FULL LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sat. August 17, home to Kingstonian; Tues. August 20, home to Slough Town; Sat. August 24, away to Sutton United; Tues. August 27, away to Hendon; Sat. August 31, home to Tooting and Mitcham United; Tues. September 3, home to Oxford City; Sat. September 7, away to Dagenham; Tues. September 10, away to Hayes; Tues.

September 17, away to Leatherhead; Sat. September 21, home to Walton and Hersham; Tues. September 24, away to Slough Town; Sat. September 28, home to Walthamstow Avenue; Tues. October 1, home to Hendon; Sat. October 5, home to Enfield; Tues. October 8, home to Hayes; Sat. October 12, away to Hitchin Town; Tues. October 15, home to Leatherhead; Sat. October 19, home to Bishops Cleeve; Wed. October 23, away to Oxford City; Sat. October 26, away to Barking; Sat. November 2, home to Clapton; Sat. November 9, away to Leytonstone; Sat. November 16, home to Ilford; Sat. November 23, away to Bromley; Sat. December 14, away to Woking; Sat. Dec. 21, away to Kingstonian; Sat. December

## Wanderers leave the Floodlight league

**AFTER** four years in the competition, Wycombe Wanderers have decided to leave the Premier Midweek Floodlight League. Their resignation was accepted by the league last week. Instead of the regular mid-week matches in the P.M.F.L., Wanderers hope to arrange more attractive friendlies.

Club secretary Bert Crump told the 'Free Press', "We felt it was becoming a mediocre competition for us. If we can arrange attractive friendlies, it will undoubtedly be more beneficial for the club."

These friendlies will be arranged by manager Brian Lee, who has already brought such clubs as Chelsea, Derby County and Bournemouth to Loakes Park for matches in the past. Brian felt the P.M.F.L. had lost its importance and was not the competition it started out to be.

He added, "the organisation in 1973 left a lot to be desired and it was a similar situation last season. It is also costing a fair amount for the five away matches and the competition lacks interest for both the players and the supporters."

"I am only interested in friendlies against clubs on a par or better than us and as we are going into the F.A. Challenge Trophy next season, it would be nice to get some of the Southern League clubs down here." Brian also indicated that he would be trying to arrange matches against some Football League clubs.

In the four seasons in the Mid-week League Wanderers met with a good deal of success. In 1969-70 they won the competition and the

following season they lost in the final to Walton and Hersham at Loakes Park. The 1971-72 season was the only time they failed to top their section, being beaten into second place by local rivals Slough Town, who went on to win the trophy.

In 1972-73 Wanderers dominated their section and finished their programme well in advance. They then beat Horsham to win the semi-final but had to wait for the other play-offs to take place before their opponents in the final could be determined. These were delayed to such an extent that they had to be held over until next season. After a lengthy saga, a date was eventually offered to Wycombe to meet Dagenham, who had beaten Hayes on default, which the Blues were unable to accept. The League then declared

Dagenham the winners, telling Wanderers they were also in default. After another meeting, however, the League changed their decision and allowed the section winners to share the trophy for a year.

Last term there was no time to play off the section winners again but this time due to the floodlight ban mid-way through the term.

Wanderers are not the only club to be leaving the league. Dagenham, Horsham, Kingstonian and Slough have also resigned.

**HIGH WYCOMBE** referee Mr. H. F. Hutton is £10 richer thanks to Rothmans' sponsorship of the Hellenic League last season. Mr. Hutton, who lives in Naphill was the second highest marked referee during the winter. Mr. R. Logan of Gloucestershire, who finished top, received £20.